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Missing Burns Portrait Finally Found After 200 Years

A painting of Robert Burns, commissioned in 1803, was rediscovered this year, after its whereabouts had been a mystery for over 200 years. The portrait, paid for by publishers Cadell & Davies, was created by one of the era's great painters, Sir Henry Raeburn, with the intention to use it as an engraving on future editions of Burn's works.



Burns had only ever sat for one artist during his life, Alexander Nasmyth, who created the iconic image that is used throughout the world. Raeburn was granted permission by Alexander Cunningham, who was the custodian of the Nasmyth painting, to use the original Nasmyth as a reference.

Such was the interest in the lost artwork that even Arthur Conan Doyle commented on a séance that attempted to contact Robert Burns in an effort to find its location. In 1924, director of Glasgow Art Galleries had even written that "its discovery would be an event bordering upon the sensational". At this point, it was likely considered gone for good, that is, until Burns scholar Dr. Bill Zachs, began his own Sherlock Holmes-like detective work in 1986.

Zachs explained that many unofficial copies of the Nasmyth portrait had been produced and sold at auction, so he believed "there was no reason to think that this was the missing painting" when he saw this one last March at a London auction house. Of course, Bill had acquired a letter 20 years ago, written by the man who had chosen Raeburn as the artist for the commissioned work in 1803, which made him believe that this was the missing artwork. While bids started at £300, his winning bid went all the way to £68,000. It was clear that others had felt the same about this particular painting.

After his return to Scotland, Zachs began the process of verifying that this was indeed the lost work of art. The one difference between this and the original is that Raeburn had given Burns a younger appearance, despite painting it later. The portrait is currently on display at the Burns Museum in Ayr, and will remain there for viewing until July.



MONTHLY MEETING

Attendees are welcome to bring along any snacks, finger foods, desserts, etc. A limited selection of soft drinks is also provided at all meetings, although you can bring your own if you prefer. If you can't bring a snack, bring a friend, although we'd like you to bring both!

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Venue – Jackson Avenue Evangelical Church,
(Audry Reich Hall-At rear of building)
2221 Chippewa St, New Orleans, 70130

Time – 2:00-4:00pm

Program- St. Giles Church / Lita Pinter's 90th B/day
Information – Trudy Burkhart will be giving a talk on Edinburgh's Iconic church, located in the heart of the city. We will also be celebrating Society member Lita's 90th birthday.

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Venue – Jackson Avenue Evangelical Church,
(Audry Reich Hall-At rear of building)
2221 Chippewa St, New Orleans, 70130

Time – 2:00-4:00pm

Program- AGM/Scottish Sing-along
Information – AGM will include nomination of new officers for the 2026-2028 board. Only paid-up members are eligible to vote. If interested in serving on the board, please contact Wendy Grubb. Following the AGM, members will be led in a musical sing-along.

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Venue – The Bonds' Home,
49 Stilt St., New Orleans, 70124

Time – TBA

Program- End of Year Party

Information – The Bonds' open their doors for us as we celebrate the end of another season of the Society. We encourage attendees to please bring a favorite dish as this is a potluck event.

Member and Society News

If you have any member news to include in the newsletter, please contact me by email at shawfield27@gmail.com. No information is too small. We're happy to hear of our members' exploits.

Words From The President

Pub Night at Port Orleans

"What a great venue for our afternoon get-together. Thank you Scott! The staff, especially Maggie, was very helpful in making our visit a success. The food was delicious and the opportunity to simply sit and visit with each other was a highlight of the afternoon for me. The original intent was to find a way to celebrate National Tartan Day and, to that end, about half wore their tartans, others forgot, and some, due to other commitments made different choices or just stopped by. I think the overall joy of the afternoon superseded our clothing choices. Speaking for myself, the ability to sit and visit was a highlight because often we often do not just sit and enjoy each other's company. Society business cards were given to several attendees. We hope to see some of them at future events.

We were delighted to see John Urquhart, who recently had surgery. Additionally, John's brother Will, Chief of Clan Urquhart, joined us along with Virginia.

This coming Saturday, the Society will have a table at GenFest, Milne Rec Ctr, 5420 Franklin Ave, between 10am and 4pm. This event is sponsored by the New Orleans Public Library. There are many organizations represented, with opportunities to learn more about this area, but also about genealogy. Last year everyone participating had interesting information to share and stories to tell.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our meeting on April 12th. Trudy is presenting the program."

Wendy

Festivals & Games

The 24th Annual **Scottish Tartan Festival** takes place in Minden, LA, on May 2nd. There are no details yet in regards to the event. More information, when it becomes available, can be found at <https://www.scottishtartanfestival.com/>.

The 2nd **Georgia Mountain Scottish Festival** takes place in Hiawassee, on June 6th & 7th. The festival was previously known as the Blairsville Scottish Festival, and had been running for 20 years. The change in location led to a change in name, but everything else remains the same. Attendees will see the highland games as well as pipes and drums competitions. Children also have their own activities, while live music will keep everyone entertained. Weaponry displays and workshops will also be a feature. Anyone interested can get further details at <https://gamtnscottishfestival.org/>

Events

Scottish Country Dancing classes, hosted by Wendy Grubb, take place at Carrollton United Methodist Church. This is a great way to exercise your brain and your body. Classes run every Friday, unless otherwise stated, beginning at 7pm. Entrance is via Freret St. For more information call Wendy on 504-957-0251, or email at wgrubb52@gmail.com.

Have you ever considered learning to play the bagpipes? If so, now is your chance. Pipe band, **Kilts of Many Colours**, offers bagpipe lessons running every Monday, from 6-9 p.m., at Chafunkta Brewing Company at 69069 Sky Brook Rd., Mandeville. Lessons are free.

Yearly Dues

The Society relies on dues and donations to continue to operate. Non-payment will result in a cancellation of membership, meaning you miss out on all advance notice for invitations and ticketed events, such as whisky tastings, Burns Supper, etc. Annual dues are just \$20 per person, and \$25 for a family. You can pay by check, cash, or online at our website, www.CaledonianSocietyofNewOrleans.com.

Anyone wishing to confirm their status can also email Bob Grubb at rgrubb6@gmail.com. Don't miss out, make sure you're up to date with your dues.

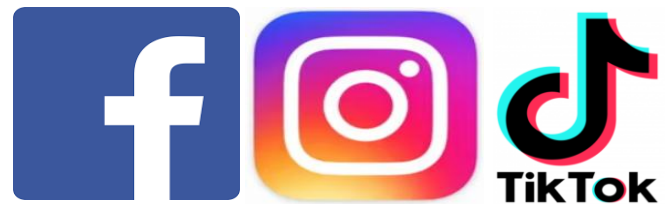
If you are currently receiving our newsletter on our courtesy list, why not consider upgrading to become a member. The fees are low and you will receive news of all events and invitations, and receive advance booking opportunities.

Newsletter

CSoNO members receive this newsletter by e-mail or post. A complimentary e-mail newsletter is also sent to non-members who have expressed an interest, so if you know of someone who would like to be on this list, please send their information for inclusion in the courtesy e-mail group. All mass e-mails are sent to recipients' "bcc" for privacy.

Social Media

The Society has a website with many links and gallery pictures for everything Scottish! In case you haven't seen the site yet, all you need to do is go to <http://www.caledoniansocietyofneworleans.com/>.



The site also has a very useful resources page, where you will find almost everything you could think of needing. In addition to Facebook, we also have Instagram and TikTok accounts. You can find us by looking for "Caledonian Society of New Orleans."

Our most popular posts in March were the announcement of our 2nd Pub night, and an impromptu call to gather at Finn McCools for Scotland's Six Nations rugby game against Ireland. Why not let us know what type of posts you would like to see on our page? We want to engage with everyone, so please like, comment, and share our posts whenever you see them, that way we can reach more people.

Time For Gaelic

*Fàilte mo chairdean! Ciamar a tha sibh an diugh?
A bheil sibh gu math? Ciamar a tha a' Ghàidhlig
agaibh? Tha ag ionnsiòchadh sporsail! Slàinte a
h-uile duine!*

When learning Gaelic, you will come across confusing letter combinations, silent letters, and even missing letters! I thought that I would try and address a couple of these here, but even I, as a continual learner, don't know, or always understand them.



Let's begin with the letter 'S'. In most cases, the S takes on the sh sound when placed before a vowel. The word "sin", meaning "that," sounds like shin. When the letter R comes after the S, then a new letter appears. T! Therefore, sràid, meaning "street," now sounds like straad. Another noticeable combination is 'bh' and 'mh'. In almost all cases, either one now creates the letter V. So madainn mhath, meaning "good morning," becomes ma-din va, while bha, meaning "was," is now va, like the previous example.

I think that may be enough for today, yes?

Don't forget to check out these learning apps.



Bluebird | Duolingo | Mango | uTalk

In addition to these apps, you can also find useful resources on the following sites,

<https://www.learnghaelic.net/>
<https://www.fluentin3months.com/scottish-gaelic/>
<https://go-gaelic.scot/>
<https://www.youtube.com/c/GaelicwithJason>

Castles Of Scotland

Name: Huntingtower Castle
Location: Huntingtower, Perth&Kinross
Year Built: 15th Century
Clan Affiliation: Ruthven

The Ruthven family had held the property since the 12th century, but did not build this castle until 300 years later. At the time it was called Ruthven Castle, but the name change came about after the Ruthven name was suppressed in 1600, through an Act of Parliament.



In 1513, William, son of the 1st Lord of Ruthven, lost his life at the age of 35, during the Battle of Flodden, which led to his son becoming the next heir to the title. 50 years later Mary, Queen of Scots, visited during her honeymoon with Lord Darnley, despite the 3rd Lord of Ruthven being involved in the murder of her previous husband.

In 1582, the 4th Lord, also known as 1st Earl of Gowrie, kidnapped Mary's son, a teenage James VI, and was held captive for over a year at Ruthven. James forgave Gowrie, but another kidnap attempt led to his execution, while the land was forfeited. Just two years later, the land was returned to the family.

Unfortunately, this did not slow down the family's attempts at overthrowing their king. In 1600, the Gowrie Conspiracy saw two Ruthven brothers being accused of another kidnapping plot, which led to the act of Parliament that saw the Ruthven name being unable to hold any land or titles. David Murray was made Keeper of the castle, and James then changed the name to Huntingtower.

In 1643, the estate was given to the Murrays by the Crown, and the castle became the family residence for over 100 years. It was not until John Murray's occupancy, also titled as 1st Duke of Atholl, that Huntingtower started to fall into neglect. Following his wife's death in 1767, the castle was abandoned.

The estate was sold in 1805, by the Mercer family, who used it to house laborers for their calico printing business. The State took care of the castle in 1912,

and is now maintained by Historic Environment Scotland. The Cowan family remained the castle custodians even after the State took control, and finally left in 2002, which is when HES officially took over its preservation role.

Distilleries Of Scotland

Name: Glenmorangie
Location: Tain, Ross-shire
Whisky Region: Highland
Whisky Type: Single Malt



Glenmorangie, Gaelic for “Valley of Tranquility”, was founded in 1843, but it is believed that alcohol has been produced in this area since the medieval times. The earliest record of organized production dates back to 1703, when Morangie Farm also had a beer brewery on site.

William Matheson, a manager at Balblair distillery, purchased the farm in 1843, and converted the brewery, renaming it Glenmorangie. As part of the remodeling, he purchased two secondhand gin stills, which allow for a longer interaction between the vapor and copper, and thereby producing a different flavor, but it was six years before whisky production began.

Success was immediate, and in 1880, the Glenmorangie Distillery Company Ltd, began exporting their popular brand. Even the Savoy, and other famous London hotels were stocking the brand in their bars. Its reputation made it a highly sought after commodity and, in 1918, the company was sold to two parties, 40% was purchased by their largest customer, while the other 60% was sold to a major whisky dealing firm.

The introduction of prohibition laws in the US, followed by the Great Depression, saw

Glenmorangie start to suffer for the first time. This led to the site being mothballed for five years, between 1931 and 1936. The onset of WWII saw fuel and barley being rationed, leading to another mothballing from 1941 to 1944. When production began again, exportation restarted to the US and Canada, but the enemy disrupted the supply chains, destroying many cargo ships.

Post WWII saw production continue to increase, and with the single malt market being in its infancy, an additional two stills were installed in 1976, to keep up with demand. Success continued, leading to another four stills being added in 1990, followed by another four in 2009. In the meantime, the company, which now also owns Ardbeg, was purchased by Moët Hennessey, who has continued to invest in the site. In 2018, they began the construction of a new still house, with two new stills set aside for experimental runs.

The brand has proven to be so big that Harrison Ford has recently fronted an advertising campaign to expand – if that’s possible – the brand. I think it’s fair to say that, today, you would need to have been living under a rock if you haven’t heard of Glenmorangie.

Just For Fun

Are our Scottish trivia questions making y’all more knowledgeable? I certainly hope so! How did you do with our last set of teasers?

1. The Glasgow School of Art building is often considered the masterpiece of which famous architect?
Charles Rennie Mackintosh
2. Which loch is the largest inland stretch of water in Great Britain by surface area?
Loch Lomond
3. Which Scottish city hosts the 'International Festival of Music and Drama', every August?
Edinburgh
4. What Scottish title was given to Prince William and Kate Middleton once they married?
Earl and Countess of Strathearn
5. What town was granted city status in 2002 and is now known as "The Capital of The Highlands"?
Inverness

Here are your April teasers.

1. How many islands make up the Orkney Islands?

2. What sort of lift is the famous rotating Falkirk Wheel?
3. What is the longest river in Scotland?
4. In 1839 what sport did the 'Eglinton Tournament' involve?
5. Where was William Wallace finally defeated by the English?

I'm Fixin' To

When you live in Louisiana you know that a favorite topic here is either eating, talking about eating, or talking about eating while eating, and not necessarily talking about what you're eating! So why not talk about the next dish that you'll be making, like this one below?

Microwave Sticky Toffee Pudding



This iconic dessert is a staple on many restaurant menus. Learn how to make it the easier way - in a microwave with a mug!

Ingredients:

- 50g or just over ½ cup of chopped dates**
- 2 Tbsp hot water**
- 1/8 tsp baking soda**
- 25g or 1 ¼ Tbsp. butter**
- 1 ½ Tbsp light brown sugar**
- 1 ½ Tbsp self-raising flour**
- 2 Tbsp beaten medium-sized egg (roughly half the egg)**
- 10g or 2/3 Tbsp. unsalted butter**

- 2 Tbsp light brown sugar**
- double cream or whipping cream (optional)**

Method:

Chop dates and place them in a large mug, cover with hot or boiling water and baking soda. If you don't have a large enough mug, use a similar sized bowl or pitcher. Stir and cook in microwave for 20 seconds.

Add 1 ¾ Tbsp. butter and microwave for up to 30 seconds, then stir in the sugar. Add flour and the egg, and stir again ensuring you mix the dates in, which may be at the bottom. Continue until there are no clumps left.

Place the mug back into the microwave and heat for 1 min 15 secs, then for 30 sec, and a final time for 20 secs. Between each heating, take out the mug and jiggle it to prevent the mixture from sticking too much to the side.

Run a knife around the edge of the pudding and mug, and flip it onto a plate. Add cream, or ice cream if you prefer. Then eat and enjoy!

We hope you have enjoyed this month's newsletter. Our aim is to educate and entertain, as well as keep our members informed and up-to-date on all things Scottish. If you have any news or items you would like included in the newsletter, then you can contact me at shawfield27@gmail.com. It can be anything at all, but should have a Scottish element, or be related to a member. If there are other items you would like to see in the newsletter, then please let me know.

Tioraidh an-dràsta!

(Chee-ree an draa-sta)

(Bye just now)

